

USA Track & Field (USATF) Officials Certification

USATF is the governing body for track and field. USATF has authorized the National Officials Committee (NOC) to certify, train, and select officials for USATF national championships. The United States is divided into associations and we are the Southwestern Association. Each association is charged with conducting association championships such as youth and masters, cross country among others. Each association is charged with certifying officials via the NOC. Other governing bodies, NCAA, NAIA, NHSFS, accepts the USATF certification of officials although some states require additional high school certifications (Texas does not).

Certification: An official's certification covers an Olympiad (4 years). If you are certifying now for the first time, your certification will cover you through the 2020 Olympics. The cost for the certification is \$40.00 with \$20 going to NOC and \$20 staying with the Southwestern Association for certification expenses and purchase of officiating equipment (i.e. wind gauges, timers, etc). This \$40.00 is payable to the Southwestern Track & Field Officials Association (SWTFOA). You can pay via check, money order, or credit card. SWTFOA is a "club" within the Southwestern Association. Besides completing rules review and paying \$40, the following is required:

1. USATF Membership – see below
2. Complete the New Official Application Form and print
Include the 2017+ USATF Membership #
3. Complete the "rules" review answer sheet
4. Complete the free SafeSport Training
5. Complete the Background Check screening (\$16.00 fee)

USATF Membership: All officials must be members of USATF to be certified and maintain membership throughout the Olympiad. You apply online and the cost is \$30 a year or you can join for multiple years for a reduced cost. Included in this membership is liability insurance that covers you while working track meets plus some medical insurance availability in case of injury, after your own insurance pays. There are other benefits that will be sent to you with your membership card. You will need the USATF Membership number (10 digits) to complete the SafeSport and Background screening.

SafeSport Training: US Olympic Committee is requiring that all Olympic sport governing bodies conduct this free training dealing with sexual abuse/assault concerning athletes. This training is good through 2020

Background checks: USATF has also mandated this screening and the cost is \$16.00 for two years.

Once everything is complete, I manually add you to the official's database via USATF and that will generate an official's certification card and I will add your shirt size.

The USATF official's certification card will come from USATF to me then I mail to you. The free shirt will be sent by USATF directly to you.

Each new official begins as an Apprentice official and can be upgraded to Association, National, and Master over time by officiating and gaining experience. You can review the guidelines for upgrades on the SWTFOA web site.

